

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 AID-05

PRS-01 PA-01 /074 R

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AF/I:JANDEREGG

PM/MC:JPWALSH (INFO)

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O 142236Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034927

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, MILI, PBOR, UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

REFS: STATE 30321(NOTAL); DBEASUM MEMO, 2/11/75 (POUCHED
BAMAKO AND OUAGA)

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP; PARIS FOR MELONE

1. THERE FOLLOWS STATUS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF VOLTAN
AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON (TO THE EXTENT WE KNOW OF THEM) IN
HIS SEARCH FOR ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH GOUV WISHES
PURCHASE FROM US SOURCES:

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A) DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED APPLICATION DATED JAN 30 FROM COLT FIREARMS FOR EXPORT LICENSE COVERING INTER ALIA 4000 AR-15 FULLY-AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND 1.0 MILLION ROUNDS AMMUNITION. TOTAL VALUE THIS ORDER IS DOLS 1.12 MILLION.

B) WE ALSO HAVE IN HAND APPLICATION DATED FEB 3 FROM INTERNATIONAL ARMAMENT CORPORATION FOR EXPORT LICENSE FOR 100 CAL .30 M-1 CARBINES, 200,000 ROUNDS .30 CAL AMMUNITION AND 300,000 ROUNDS 9 MM PARABELLUM AMMUNITION (YUGOSLAV-PRODUCED). TOTAL VALUE THIS ORDER IS DOLS 38,500.

C) VOLTAN AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED HIS AGENT TO OBTAIN PRICE QUOTATION FROM CADILLAC-GAGE CORP. FOR TWO ARMORED CARS. WE BELIEVE THAT PRICE OF THESE, IF AVAILABLE, WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS 80,000 EACH.

D) VOLTAN AMBASSADOR HAS CONTACTED SIKORSKY HELICOPTERS RE PURCHASE OF TWO S-58 CARGO HELICOPTERS. THIS IS CIVILIAN VERSION OF FORMER CH-34 MILITARY MODEL AND IS CAPABLE OF FERRYING 8-12 TROOPS AND MORE UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES. WHILE WE HAVE NO FIRM EVIDENCE GOUV INTEREST IN ACQUIRING HELICOPTERS IS PROMPTED BY MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS, WE THINK TIMING OF THE REQUEST INDICATES THIS IS THE CASE. TOTAL VALUE THIS ORDER WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS 800,000.

2. IN TWO CONVERSATIONS IN DEPARTMENT THIS WEEK, VOLTAN AMBASSADOR HAS STATED, TO UNDERSCORE POINT THAT USG WOULD NOT STAND ALONE IN AGREEING TO PERMIT GOUV TO PURCHASE ARMS HERE, THAT FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL TRANSACTIONS ARE IN PROGRESS:

A) HE CLAIMED WEST GERMANS HAVE OPENED LINE OF CREDIT FOR VOLTAN MILITARY PURCHASES. WE NOTE THAT THIS CLAIM CONTRADICTS EARLIER ASSERTIONS OF FRG AMBASSADORS IN BAMAKO AND OUAGADOUGOU THAT IT IS FRG POLICY NOT TO GIVE ARMS ASSISTANCE TO EITHER SIDE IN ONGOING BORDER DISPUTE.

B) AMBASSADOR SAID THAT FRENCH RECENTLY HAVE AGREED PROVIDE VOLTANS LIGHT ARMORED VEHICLES. WE NOTE THAT ON JAN 15 QUAI OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY PARIS THAT GOF, ALTHOUGH IT WAS BEING PRESSED BY BOTH UPPER VOLTA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MALI, HAD NO INTENTION OF SUPPLYING EITHER ANY SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF ARMS.

C) AMBASSADOR CLAIMED BRITISH HAVE MADE A MODEST MILITARY COMMITMENT TO UPPER VOLTA. THIS CLAIM MUST BE EXAMINED IN CONTEXT OF FCO OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT TO EMBASSY LONDON (SANDBERG AND BISHOP (AF/W) FEB 3) THAT BRITISH WOULD NOT SUPPLY LETHAL END-ITEMS TO EITHER SIDE BUT WOULD CONSIDER

SUPPLYING NON-LETHAL ITEMS ON COMMERCIAL BASIS.

3. WE DO NOT TAKE THE FOREGOING CLAIMS OF VOLTAN AMBASSADOR AT FACE VALUE, BUT IN CONTEXT OUR CONTINUING CONSIDERATION OF VOLTAN REQUESTS TO US (PARA 1) WE WOULD LIKE TO EXAMINE THEM CAREFULLY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES BONN, LONDON AND PARIS CHECKING WITH RESPECTIVE FOREIGN OFFICES TO SEE IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ARMS ASSISTANCE TO UPPER VOLTA OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS BAMAKO AND OUAGA MAY WISH MAKE. INGERSOLL

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